(b) Funds released during 2005-06 for various States are as under:

Sl. No.	State	Total forest villages proposed to be covered	Amount released
1.	Assam	373	4059
2.	Chhattisgarh	343	4359
3.	Gujarat	199	1979
4.	Madhya Pradesh	539	5607
5.	West Bengal	170	2104
	TOTAL		18108

(c) and (d) The details of the proposals received from other States are as under:

Sl. No.	State	No. of forest villages proposed to be covered	Proposed cost of the project
1.	Madhya Pradesh*	140	2113.38
2.	Jharkhand	21	259.41
3.	Mizoram	27	405.00
4.	Orissa	33	314.28

* Proposals received from MP are in addition to the proposals received earlier for 539 villages.

The Project Appraisal Committee constituted for the purpose has considered these proposals in accordance with the laid down procedure for sanction.

Causes of oppression of women

2240. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether illiteracy and ignorance are the major causes for suffering among women and their suppression in India;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes promoted by the Centre to

empower women through education, particularly professional education, entrepreneurial and managerial training;

(c) whether any special assistance is extended to organizations imparting such education and training exclusively to women, including provision of ancillary infrastructure like hostel, library, health check-up camps, transportation, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of assistance released during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise and activity-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information in this regard is given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(d) The position of funds released to the State Governments under the Mahila Samakhya Programme is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Causes of Oppression of Women

Programmes promoted by the Government for empowerment of women through education

Pursuant to the objectives of the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, the Mahila Samakhya Scheme was started in 1989 to translate the goals enshrined in the NPE into a concrete programme for the education and empowerment of women in rural areas, particularly those from socially and economically marginalized groups. Mahila Samakhya Programme is currently being implemented in 63 districts in 9 States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. The Government have approved the expansion of the Scheme in two more States *viz.* Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh during the Tenth Plan period. The Scheme is funded fully by Government of India and is implemented by autonomous Societies

registered at the State level. The key activities of the programme center around issues of health, education of women and girls, accessing public services, addressing issues of violence and social practices, which discriminate against women and girls, gaining entry into local governance seeking sustain able livelihoods, etc. The Tenth Plan budgetary outlay for the scheme is Rs. 98.48 crores.

Schooling has been made completely free for girls in most States upto the higher secondary state. Various Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been formulated to strengthen school education and a large number of girls have benefited from these schemes. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) have been set up in rural areas as pace setting schools for talented rural children and also to ensure greater participation of girls from SC/ST communities and from households below the poverty line.

The Central Social Welfare Board implements the scheme of Condensed Courses of Education for Women for providing skill upgradation and vocational training to girls and women above 15 years who had to discontinue school education or could not join mainstream education system due to adverse family circumstances or other constraints.

One third of seats in JNVs is reserved for girls. In the higher education sector, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has been implemented various schemes for promoting women's education in universities and colleges, like schemes of grants to women's universities for technical courses, scheme for construction of women's hostels, setting up of women's study centers in 34 universities, etc. Participation of women students in polytechnics was one of the thrust areas under World Bank assisted technical education project. The scheme of community polytechnics aims at bringing in communities and encouraging rural development through science and technology apprenticeship and through skill oriented non-formal training focused on women.

Statement-II

The position of funds released in last three years to the States where Mahila Samakhya Scheme is operational

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the MS State	Year-wise releases of grant 2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.80	3.00	3.50
2.	Assam	1.15	1.65	2.48
3.	Gujarat	2.05	1.50	1.80
4.	Karnataka	1.80	2.70	3.75
5.	Kerala	0	1.00	0.85
6.	Uttar Pradesh	2.30	3.80	4.75
7.	Uttaranchal	0.20	1.10	1.80
	TOTAL	10.30	14.75	18.93

Child adoption rackets in Andhra Pradesh

2241. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some child adoption rackets have been reported during the last two years especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether children have been sold in the name of adoption;

(d) if so, the details of such cases filed in police stations in each district;

(e) the action taken in each case; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government to curb such illegal activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per